



FEMA

News Release

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011
MA-DR-4028—NR - 015
FEMA NEWSDESK: 413-787-4335
MEMA PIO Contact: 508-820-2002
SBA PIO Contact: 404-606-0696

GREAT BARRINGTON DRC TO CLOSE PERMANENTLY ON TUESDAY

Westfield, Mass. – The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at the Housatonic Community Center, 1064 Main Street in Great Barrington, will close permanently at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, disaster officials announced today.

“The number of registrations from the Great Barrington area has declined, and we feel that the majority of those needing assistance have taken advantage of this center’s services,” said Federal Coordinating Officer James N. Russo. “FEMA and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) keep DRCs open for as long as needed in each location.”

Applicants from this area with questions may still call the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) toll-free helpline and access information via the Internet and mobile devices. They may also visit any of the four remaining DRCs that will remain open in Berkshire and Franklin counties. After Tuesday, an applicant may go to any one of the DRCs that continue to operate, Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. until further notice.

Greenfield

Green River Elementary School
62 Meridian Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

Pittsfield

Pittsfield Public Library
1 Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Buckland

Mohawk Trail Regional High School
26 Ashfield Road
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Williamstown

Developers Finance Building
430 Main Street
Williamstown, MA 01267

Representatives from FEMA, MEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other agencies are available at these DRCs to explain disaster assistance programs. Recovery specialists also can provide applicants with referral assistance to other programs. The U.S. Small Business Administration can answer questions about the low interest disaster loan program and help them complete the loan application.

“Anyone who registers for disaster assistance may also access necessary information through FEMA,” State Coordinating Officer Kurt Schwartz said. “This help is available from representatives staffing the helpline service and Internet sites.”

(MORE)

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Anyone needing further help and answers to their questions may call FEMA's toll-free helpline, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. Individuals with a speech or hearing disability may call (TTY) **1-800-462-7585** from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Help is also available by going online to www.disasterassistance.gov as well as by using mobile devices and going to m.fema.gov, 24 hours a day.

Federal disaster assistance can include grants for rental assistance and home repairs, low-interest disaster loans from the SBA to cover property losses and other programs to help recover from the effects of Irene.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.